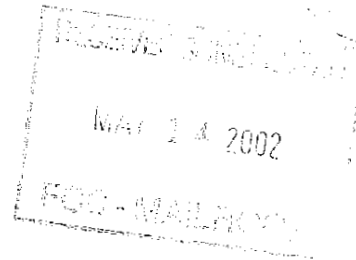


Mrs. Theresa Germain
344 North Rd.
Lancaster, NH 03584



MICHAEL POWCLL, CHAIRMAN
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
445 12TH STREET SW
WASHINGTON DC 205
[REDACTED]

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MB Docket no 01-348

April 23, 2002

Michael Powell, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Powell,

I am writing today to encourage your support of the pending merger between EchoStar and DirecTV. It is my understanding if these two companies merge, we will be able to get our local networks on satellite, as will everyone across the United States.

In our part of the State we cannot get all of the major networks and those we can receive do not come close to the clarity we can get on satellite. Also, if the merger takes place we will have access to broadband and new television technology.

I am not sure if you realize what people here in The Great North Woods have to go through to get the major networks if they don't have cable. Their options are:

1. Put up an all-purpose antenna. We have one of the best antennas available with a rotor. With that we could get channel 8 out of Portland, Me. (until they moved the antenna, without warning to anyone, now we cannot get it at all) and the picture was "ghosty" because we were too close to the tower on Mt. Washington. We can also receive channel 3 out of Burlington, Vt. with an amplifier, but it is so snowy we can't watch it. That was it!
2. Satellite dish. In order to get networks off a satellite dish we have to "qualify" for them. From what I understand, there is an FCC ruling that states if you can get your local channels with a rooftop antenna, the satellite company legally cannot give us theirs, because it is not local. The satellite dealer has a computer program, which supposedly takes into consideration the terrain of any particular address, and after putting my address in, it tells me what I am "allowed" to receive for distant networks. After putting my address in I was told I could not receive CBS on my satellite. I requested a waiver from my "local" CBS, which is out of Burlington, VT, and the waiver was denied. I CANNOT GET CH3 OUT OF BURLINGTON unless I want to watch a "snowstorm" all year!

At one time, we were able to receive our networks out of Boston on Dish Network. These are not local, but they are a lot closer than New York. Now because of another FCC law, the Must Carry Law, I am loosing the Boston Networks. Because Dish Network has to carry any Independent Boston channels that want to be on satellite. In order for them to have room on the satellite, they have to change the satellite to a "spot beam" which means the signal will only reach about a 200 mile radius. Now people in the Boston area will have 3 or 4 channels of each network. Who needs that duplication? Of course we the consumer will ultimately end up paying for these extra channels! If this Must Carry Law is about fairness and choice, why can't we have a choice as to where we get our networks? If I want to get networks out of Detroit instead of locally and they are available on satellite, I ought to have that right! It is about time for our elected officials to start looking out for the interests of the "little" people instead of the cable companies and the NAB.

In the interest of improving my access to competitive television, Internet service, and local networks, I urge you to lend your support to this merger.

Sincerely,

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